

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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P 270830Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0280

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FOR CU/EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, KS

SUBJECT: ROKG DEMANDS YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING PARTICIPANTS
HOME PRIOR COMPLETION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 118963 & 198527

1. ALTHOUGH ROKG HAS HAD LONG-STANDING POLICY OF NOT ALLOWING SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS GO ABROAD, EMBASSY, FOLLOWING REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT IN 198527, WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE MOE MODIFY POLICY SOMEWHAT. THUS PERMISSION GIVEN FOR FIRST YFU VISIT WITH UNDERSTANDING IT BEGIN DURING LONG KOREA WINTER VACATION AND END AFTER SIXTY DAYS SO THAT KOREAN ACADEMIC YEAR NOT UNDULY INTERRUPTED. THIS CONDITION UNDERSTOOD BY MINISTRY, EMBASSY, AND AGREED TO BY LOCAL YFU REPRESENTATIVES. STUDENTS MUST HAVE UNDERSTOOD SINCE PASSPORTS ISSUED FOR SIXTY DAYS ONLY. MOE ALSO HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT METHOD IN WHICH STUDENTS CHOSEN. THE FACT THAT ONE STUDENT HAS GONE OFF PROGRAM EVIDENCE THAT RESERVATIONS HAVE CERTAIN VALIDITY.

3. WHEN PHILIP YASINSKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YFU, VISITED SEOUL, ROKG POLICY CONCERNING SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT GOING ABROAD FULLY EXPLAINED. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, CONSIDERED PROGRAM DESIRABLE AND OFFERED TO ASSIST WHERE POSSIBLE.

4. IN RECENT CORRESPONDENCE YASINSKI HAS INDICATED YFU'S PLAN TO END PROGRAM, BUT SINCE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES SO ENTHUSIASTIC SOLICITED EMBASSY ADVICE. RESPONSE WAS THAT MOE HAD RESERVATIONS
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CONCERNING STUDENT SELECTION AND AT LEAST FOR 1975 WANTED SHORT

PROGRAM. AMERICAN-KOREAN FOUNDATION WAS SUGGESTED AS POSSIBLE LOCAL ORGANIZATION WHOM YFU COULD WORK THROUGH SINCE THEY WELL ESTABLISHED AND ABLE WORK HARMONIOUSLY WITH MOE, UPON WHOM OBVIOUSLY WHOLE FUTURE OF PROGRAM DEPENDS.

5. EMBASSY STILL FEELS YFU HAS PLACE IN KOREA BUT STUDENTS SHOULD RETURN PROMPTLY TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING POSSIBLE FUTURE OF PROGRAM. SUGGEST AGAIN YFU GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION CORRESPONDING WITH AMERICAN-KOREAN FOUNDATION TO PUT PROGRAM ON SOUND BASIS.
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